

Weather Forecast

Partly cloudy today; clearing, colder tonight; fair tomorrow.
Temperatures today—Highest, 53, at 12:01 a.m.; lowest, 40, at 7:05 a.m.; 51 at 1:30 p.m.; Yesterday—Highest, 57, at 7:10 p.m.; lowest, 34, at 9:10 a.m.

Late New York Markets, Page A-13.

93d YEAR. No. 36,820.

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1945—THIRTY PAGES. ★★

Guide for Readers

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ALLIES' BIG DRIVE UNDER WAY, NAZIS SAY

Tanks Reported Sent Across Roer; Volcano Capture Aids Iwo Drive

Initial Advances Total 2 Miles, Germans Assert

By the Associated Press.
PARIS, Feb. 23.—German broadcasts asserted today that Gen. Eisenhower had launched his great offensive toward the Ruhr and the Rhine, crossing the Roer River with tanks and infantry on both sides of Linth, river bastion 28 miles west of Cologne.

The Germans said the Allies had bridged the Roer at several places and had advanced 2 miles east of the river. They said the main bridgeheads were at Birkendorf, Gevenich and Seigsdorf.

Hours after the German reports there was no confirmation at supreme headquarters of any new major attack.

The Germans said the offensive was on a 35-mile front in the way from Roermond to Duren, the outskirts of which were reached. The enemy communiqué said the American 9th Army attacked "after the heaviest artillery fire," and radio reports said the American tanks were striking down the 15 miles toward Duren, attempting to roll up Nazi lines east of the Roer which have checked the Allies since December.

Good Weather Returns.
The British 2d Army, last reported in the Roermond area, where the Roer flows into the Meuse, was said by Berlin to be fighting alongside the Canadians in the Goch-Rhine sector farther north.

Fogs which blotted out parts of the battlefield at dawn gave way to good weather. An early wave of takeoffs indicated the Germans were in for another paralyzing bombing onslaught such as yesterday's.

Both south and north of the Roer sector, the American 3d and Canadian 1st Armies made gains. Still farther south, the American 7th Army moved to within a mile and a half of the Saar capital of Saarbrücken and won two-thirds of Forbach.

Advance in Moselle Valley.
Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3d Army advanced up to 2½ miles in the Moselle valley and to within 4½ miles of Trier, a town of 86,000, keystone of German defenses before the Middle Rhine.

The 3d Army forced a third crossing of the Saar River northwest of Saarburg and started fighting in the Siegfried Line which lies just east of the Saar. The American 9th Army, the columns squeezing the German salient east of Luxembourg moved to within 8 miles of a junction. Town after town fell.

Canadian 1st Army gains on the north flank of the Roer River front were up to a mile and a half. The fortified road bastion of Calcar slowly was being invested. Scot vanguards pushed a half mile down the Goch-Weeze road. Canadians fanned out to the north and moved a mile and a half toward the subsidiary Rhine.

Allies Near Ruhr Rail Center.
At Linth (population 5,000), the Allies were 16½ miles from the heart of Muenchen Gladbach, Ruhr industrial and rail center. Linth and its sister fortress cities of Dueren and Juelich on the Roer were but piles of rubble as a result of months of Allied artillery and air bombardments.

At Dueren (population 39,000), the American 9th Army was 20 miles from Cologne. The Allies moved up to its western edge last December. Between Linth and Dueren, the Germans have built three earthen defense lines. The whole Roer River sector is beyond the Siegfried Line which has been breached totally by 35 miles in the Aachen area.

The Germans said the Roer offensive was "like a colossal" swarming north attack.

Konev's Forces Advance.
Marshal Konev's forces yesterday captured 60 localities south of Guben and reached the Neisse River at 500 yards along a winding 40-mile front, Moscow declared.

Yesterday's greatest advance of 11 miles through fortified forests topped Schenkendorf, 2 miles south of Guben. Other Konev units had reached the Neisse 8 miles north of Guben the day before.

The Soviet bulletin said 2,000 Germans were annihilated in a battle southeast of Guben. German broadcasts, partially confirmed by Moscow reports, said the Russians already had crossed the Neisse and were completing the encirclement of Guben.

Soviet troops also drove to within 12 miles of Cottbus, rail hub on the Spree River, last natural defense line before Berlin, and with the capture of Strega were also only 8 miles north of Forth.

The Russians captured another section of the big military autobahn, superhighway leading from Silesia into Berlin, by taking Triebel, 11½ miles southeast of Forth.

Danzig Drive Gains.
Other units of Marshal Konev's army made new gains farther south in the wedge-driving offensive between Berlin and Dresden, capital of Saxony.

20 More Nazi Targets Blasted As Allies Keep Up Air Blows

1,900 U. S. Planes Hammer Reich In Drive to Knock Out Enemy Transport

By the Associated Press.
LONDON, Feb. 23.—At least 20 freight yards and other rail targets were blasted today by 1,900 American planes continuing the gigantic offensive to knock out the German transport system that feeds both the eastern and western fronts.

A force of more than 1,250 Fortresses and Liberators and 650 fighters followed the same pattern as yesterday's assault and spread out in small formations to smash at widespread targets from the relatively low altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 feet.

There was every indication that this operation was only part of a free-for-all attack by all seven Allied air commands in this theater and Italy which probably were putting 5,000 planes in the air following yesterday's blow of 7,000 bombers and fighters.

It was the 11th day of ruinous attacks on Germany from both west and south, in which 20,000 planes probably have been thrown against the Reich in the last three days.

More than 1,100 aircraft from Italy joined in the attack yesterday, hitting 54 separate rail targets in Germany, Austria and Italy, and the RAF kept the offensive going last night, with Mosquito bombers hitting Berlin and other objectives.

Eighty air Force targets today were located in a triangular area (See AERIAL, Page A-4.)

Russian Forces Mass For Victory Blow at Berlin, Stalin Says

By the Associated Press.
LONDON, Feb. 23.—Russian troops, having almost encircled Guben in an 11-mile smash through reinforced German lines, today were reported massing along an arc 30 to 50 miles east and southeast of Berlin for an end-of-the-war stroke triumphantly heralded by Premier Stalin.

"Complete victory over the Germans now is near," Premier Stalin declared last night in a special order of the day which said the great Russian winter offensive already had cost the Germans more than 1,150,000 killed or captured.

The Moscow radio early today followed up the Stalin order with a German-language broadcast declaring "the zero hour has struck" and added that "dissolution of the German army in the East is in full swing."

"It is up to the German people in the army and factories to stop the war," the broadcast said. "Peace will not be negotiated with the generals."

Offensive Co-ordinated.
Premier Stalin yesterday asserted that Soviet and Allied armies have co-ordinated their offensive operations and are "successfully completing the rout of the German Fascist army."

Final victory will come in "hard battles and persistent labor," he said, warning that "as the doomed enemy hurls his last forces into action he will grasp at the most extreme and base means of struggle."

Premier Stalin's proclamation, commemorating the 27th anniversary of the Red Army, said the Russians had killed 800,000 Germans and captured 350,000 since January 12. He said the Germans had lost 3,000 planes, 4,500 tanks and self-propelled guns and 12,000 other guns during that time.

The Berlin radio said that a final all-out Soviet offensive was imminent now that Marshal Ivan S. Konev's 1st Ukrainian Army has drawn up beside Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's 1st White Russian Army on a little line along the Neisse and Oder Rivers.

Berlin said Marshal Zhukov's army was massed "like a colossal" swarming north attack.

Konev's Forces Advance.
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Marines Repulse Two Japanese Counterattacks

(Pictures on Page A-3.)

By the Associated Press.
PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Feb. 23.—American marines today reached the summit of Mount Suribachi at the southern tip of Iwo Jima and began a renewed drive on the central airfield after repulsing two Japanese counterattacks.

The Stars and Stripes were raised over the volcanic Suribachi fortress 97 hours after the costly invasion began on the western side of the island from the rear last night.

Little progress was made elsewhere in the most costly fight in which the marines have ever been engaged—a fight which cost 5,372 American casualties, including 644 dead, in the first three days.

Swimmers Mopped Up.
Japanese swimmers made a hopeless attempt to attack American troops on the western side of the island from the rear last night. They were mopped up on the beaches this morning.

Carrier aircraft sweeping over the Bonin Islands in protective sweeps to eliminate repeated enemy attacks on American shipping assembled off Iwo shot down three Japanese planes.

The shooting of Suribachi was the brightest spot in the entire Iwo campaign.

The Leathernecks won command of the 566-foot height from which the Japanese had cast down a deadly mortar and artillery fire on other marines spread out over the southern third of the embattled island. Its capture eliminated the threat to the rear of three Devil Dog Divisions attempting to drive north, where the main strength of the enemy garrison is dug in.

Flag Raised Over Volcano.
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz commended the drama into this special communiqué: "The 28th Regiment of the United States Marines was observed raising the United States flag on the summit of Mount Suribachi on Iwo Island at 10:35 a.m. today."

The extinct volcanic cone had been snatched by the 4th Marine Division under Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Bates. Then for 28 hours the Leathernecks clambered up the 45-degree cliffs despite grenades and demolition charges hurled down into their faces by the desperate defenders.

Before that, Mount Suribachi was hammered steadily for more than a week by naval guns and aerial bombs. The defenders fought on until killed in their dugouts by marines advancing hole by hole and cave by cave with flame throwers, grenades and bazookas.

In his earlier communiqué Admiral Nimitz reported strong Japanese counterattacks on both flanks of the American force edging only feet or yards at a time toward the southern fringe of Iwo's central airfield.

The main airfield to the south already is in American hands.

Heavy American Toll.
One of the counterattacks apparently was repulsed, but there was no report on the other, on the American right flank. By official count, 54 marines were killed, 188 wounded and 560 were missing up to 6 p.m. Wednesday. This count covered the first 58 hours of the two fighting. During the same period 1,222 Japanese dead were counted.

No invasion of the Pacific war (See TWO, Page A-2.)

Four Heavy Cruisers, New Carrier Ordered

By the Associated Press.
PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—Contracts have been awarded to the New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J., for four heavy cruisers, and the Philadelphia Navy Yard has been directed to start construction of an aircraft carrier, the Fourth Naval District public relations office announced today.

The office said the cruisers would range from 13,000 to 14,000 tons, and the carrier will displace 27,000 tons. No other details were announced.

Red Major Telephones Berlin From Station Captured Intact

By the Associated Press.
MOSCOW, Feb. 23.—Investia reported with glee today that a Red Army major had talked by telephone with a Nazi secretary in Berlin's City Hall.

Mexican Water Treaty Is Approved, 18 to 4, By Senate Committee

Floor Action Expected Shortly After Connally Returns From Parley

By the Associated Press.
The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted today to send the United States-Mexico water treaty to the floor with a recommendation that it be ratified. The vote was 18 to 4. A two-thirds majority favorable vote in the Senate is necessary for ratification. It must also be ratified by Mexico before it becomes effective.

Senate action on the pact is expected to follow shortly after the return of the committee chairman, Senator Connally, Democrat, of Texas, from the Inter-American Conference in Mexico, probably about the middle of March. Senator Connally leaves tomorrow for Mexico City.

Committee Vote.
Committee members voting against approval of the treaty were: Senators Johnson, Republican, of California; Murray, Democrat, of Montana; Pepper, Democrat, of Florida; and Shipstead, Republican, of Minnesota.

Chairman Connally and Senators George, Democrat, of Georgia; Wagner, Democrat, of New York; Thomas, Democrat, of Utah; Green, Democrat, of Rhode Island; Barkley, Democrat, of Kentucky; Guffey, Democrat, of Pennsylvania; Glass, Democrat, of Virginia; Tunney, Democrat, of Delaware; Hatch, Democrat, of New Mexico; Hill, Democrat, of Alabama; Lucas, Republican, of Illinois; Capper, Republican, of Kansas; La Follette, Progressive, of Wisconsin; Vandenberg, Republican, of Michigan; White, Republican, of California; McNamara, Republican, of Vermont; Wiley, Republican, of Wisconsin.

Terms of the treaty provide for a division of waters of the Colorado River and the Rio Grande, and authorize the governments of the two countries to work out a plan for the development of the Tijuana River in California.

Opposition has sprung mainly from Californians, who contend it gives to Mexico water of the Colorado on which they count for future development of their State.

Urged by State Department.
The State Department has urged ratification to settle long-standing friction between the two countries over the allocation of waters of the international streams, and asserted such action would stand the United States in good stead for the forthcoming San Francisco meeting of the United Nations in April.

Californians protested during the month-long committee hearings against a clause guaranteeing Mexico delivery of 1,500,000 acre feet of water daily.

Under the section dealing with the Rio Grande, Texas irrigation farmers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley would be assured not only sufficient supplies to remove growing water shortage but enough to permit about 200,000 additional acres to be put in cultivation.

Three dams would be built across that international stream to store up flood waters; Texas would get all the runoff originating in the United States below Fort Quitman, Tex., and in addition, 350,000 acre feet originating on Mexican tributaries.

While opposition has come principally from California, and to a lesser extent from Nevada, other Colorado River Basin States have given it their approval on the grounds that it would definitely limit the amount of the river's flow to which Mexico is entitled.

Alexei Receives Flynn
MOSCOW, Feb. 23 (AP).—Edward J. Flynn, friend of President Roosevelt, who has been visiting the Soviet Union for several days, was received today by Alexei, patriarch of Moscow and all the Russians for the Russian Orthodox Church.



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Rankin and Hook Apologize To House Members for Bout

Michigan Representative Offers Complete Regrets; Mississippian Defends Action

By the Associated Press.
Two Democratic House members who staged an unscheduled fist fight in the well of the chamber yesterday—Representatives Rankin of Mississippi and Hook of Michigan—apologized to their colleagues when the House convened at noon today.

Shortly after the chamber came to order, Representative Cox, Democrat, of Georgia, called on the two men to apologize for their conduct yesterday. The fight occurred over an epithet hurled by Mr. Hook at Mr. Rankin, who had accused the Michigan legislator of consorting with Communists. The Mississippi then struck Mr. Hook.

After Mr. Hook offered his regrets

an apology "just as broad as any member would desire," he said—Mr. Rankin took the floor and told the Speaker "I merely desire to make a statement."

He then talked at length about his part in the fight, insisting that he did not violate the House rules when he clashed with Mr. Hook.

"I merely did what any gentleman would do. If I were to apologize it would be for the disturbance caused members of this body. I didn't violate the rules by what I said. However, he added: 'If I have offended the membership of the House, I am sorry.'"

Indications were that the House members would accept the apology. (See FIGHT, Page A-5.)

Labor Leaders Carry Fight to Break Wage Formula to President

CIO May Quit WLB In Protest Against Little Steel Report

By JAMES Y. NEWTON.
Labor opposition mounted to the boiling point today against the recommendation of War Labor Board public members that the Little Steel formula be left undisturbed as the guidepost for basic wage increases because pay of most workers had kept well abreast of living costs.

CIO President Philip Murray announced that an extraordinary session of his Executive Board would be called "to tackle this crucial problem," as speculation grew that the CIO might withdraw from WLB.

Angry protests of individual unions were added to the earlier strong dissent of the AFL and of WLB members from both major labor organizations.

Mr. Murray said the report, which had been almost a year in the making, "reflects the frustrated thinking and inaction which underlie the present administration of the board," and added that the CIO would take its fight to President Roosevelt.

Members of the CIO Executive Board said "under present conditions the CIO members do not see how they can discharge their deep responsibility to the Nation and to labor."

Appeal Directly to President.
The four AFL board members made a direct appeal to the President "to prevent the occurrence of economic disaster by modifying realistically the Little Steel formula."

They added that "point by point, the record of the anti-inflation program is indeed a sorry one; that is on every point save the regulation of wages."

Signed by Chairman William H. Davis, Vice Chairman George W. Taylor, who wrote the Little Steel formula, Dr. Frank P. Graham and Lloyd K. Garrison, the report came on the eve of John L. Lewis' threat to wage ceilings in negotiations of his United Mine Workers, scheduled to start next week.

The report to the President by the public members indicated that Government control of wages, as protection against deflation as well as inflation, must be maintained "during the reconversion period and until the production of civilian goods has so far progressed as to render stabilization controls unnecessary."

The report denied validity of labor's two major arguments for breaking the basic wage ceiling—that true pay had dropped far behind living costs and that a general wage rise should be allowed now to offset threatened deflation in the reconversion period.

Conference Battle For House Work Bill Promised by May

Senate Delays Floor Fight On Its Measure; Week of Debate Forecast

By J. A. O'LEARY.
Chairman May of the House Military Affairs Committee served notice today he will put up a fight in conference for the compulsory work bill.

President Roosevelt requested in preference to the substitute reported out of the Senate Military Affairs Committee yesterday after three weeks' deliberation.

Meanwhile, the Senate put off the floor battle over the revamped measure until Monday, with indications the debate may continue most of next week.

Although the Senate committee vote to report the measure was 13 to 4, Senator Thomas, Democrat, of Utah, the chairman, explained nearly all Senators reserved the right to oppose any part of the bill on the floor, which means it may be further rewritten before it goes to conference with the House.

Insists on House Bill.
"We are going to insist on the House bill," said Mr. May referring to the measure authorizing draft boards to direct men 18 to 45 to remain at or move to essential jobs, subject to penalties up to \$10,000 fine or five years.

"The penalty will have to apply to both," said Mr. May, commenting on the fact that the Senate version puts all of the compulsion on employers not to hire workers in violation of labor ceilings—except in the case of farm workers.

While there are no penalties in the Senate bill for industrial workers who leave an essential job or fail to move into such employment, if a farm worker is unacceptable for military service, he could not leave farming without facing the regular draft law penalty of \$10,000 or five years' imprisonment.

The Senate version is based on the theory that manpower difficulties grow out of maldistribution of workers, rather than shortage of labor supply.

Amends Amendment Adopted.
Therefore, it merely gives congressional sanction to the War Manpower Commission's present system of placing ceilings on the number of workers a concern may employ, and seeking to channel those forced out of peacetime occupations into war work through the United States Employment Service, with the aid of voluntary labor-management committees.

At the last moment the Senate group adopted an amendment by Senator Austin, Republican, of Vermont, which would raise penalties up to \$10,000, or one year.

Plane Wreckage Seen in Virginia May Be Airliner

Craft Long Overdue After Leaving D. C. With 22 Aboard

By the Associated Press.
Wreckage believed to be that of an American Airlines transport plane which took off from National Airport last midnight has been spotted in "rough country" in southwestern Virginia, airline officials reported this afternoon.

The plane left for Nashville last night with a crew of 3 and 19 passengers, including a prominent Washington matron.

The pilot of a search plane dispatched by the airline radioed that he had located the "total wreck" of a plane 4 miles from Rural Retreat, between Marion and Blytheville. He said he saw no sign of life as he flew over the wreckage at an altitude of 100 feet. The plane apparently had not burned, he reported.

Land Party on Way.
A land party was reported on the way to the scene of the wreck, described as a wooded, mountainous section at an elevation of about 4,000 feet.

A spokesman at the Tri Cities Airport between Bristol, Va., Tenn., Johnson City, Tenn., and Kingsport, Tenn., said the plane was heard from last at 2:05 a.m., when it reported engine trouble shortly after giving its position on course over Pulaski, Va., about 50 miles southwest of Roanoke. The plane was due at Nashville at 2:49 a.m., it was said.

Civilians on the missing plane included Mrs. Francis Ulen, wife of Capt. Francis Ulen, U. S. N., of 4000 Cathedral avenue N.W., and Clyde J. Pinney, Philadelphia, an employee of the Baldwin Locomotive Works. Both boarded the plane here. The third person was Carlos Audifred of Mexico City, who got on the plane in New York.

Service Personnel Aboard.
All other passengers, it was said, were Army, Navy or Marine Corps personnel, and their names will be withheld until next 8th kin are notified.

The crew consists of Capt. James E. Stroud of Nashville, whose father, William E. Stroud, lives at 2700 Connecticut avenue N.W.; First Officer R. M. Brigan of Wadesboro, N. C., and Stewardess Sarah Padgett of Ada, Okla. Capt. Stroud's family here was notified by airline officials that his plane was missing.

Capt. Stroud, 36, is a graduate of Davidson College, Davidson, N. C. He learned to fly in 1933 as an Army pilot. After two years of Army flying Capt. Stroud became a commercial pilot. He is unmarried.

The plane, bound for Los Angeles, arrived here from La Guardia Field, where it took off at 9:29 o'clock last night.

Heard Plane Flying Low.
The only emergency landing field between Pulaski and Bristol is at Chilhowie, Va., where the night policeman reported to Town Sgt. Dayton Pennington that the plane went over flying very low, according to the Associated Press.

The plane, known as the Mercury, is a twin-engined Douglas DC-3 with a 21-passenger capacity. The flight was held up several hours at La Guardia Field because of bad weather.

It was said at the Weather Bureau here that the plane should have been running out of rainy weather prevailing locally when it reached Pulaski, with clearing skies ahead all the way into Nashville, where visibility was good.

New Italian Ambassador Arrives Here by Plane
By the Associated Press.
Alberto Tarchiani, newly appointed Italian Ambassador to the United States, arrived by plane today.

Originally scheduled to land in New York, the Italian envoy and his party were flown directly to Washington to avoid unfavorable weather.

Nicaragua Ex-President Dies
MANAGUA, Feb. 23 (AP).—Jose Maria Moncada, secretary of state and former president of Nicaragua, died today.

Turkey Declares War On Germany, Japan
By the Associated Press.
LONDON, Feb. 23.—Ankara announced today the Turkish Assembly had voted unanimously to declare war on Germany and Japan as a result of a decision of the Big Three to qualify as "associated nations" all countries which take up arms against the Axis before March 1.

The Ankara radio said Turkey had been invited to participate in the United Nations conference at San Francisco in April.

Turkey broke diplomatic and economic relations with Germany last August 2.

Unusually reliable informants in Cairo yesterday said declarations of war also were expected to be announced soon by Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Transjordan. In London there were rumors that Egypt might go along.